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jects which represent how our near ancestors worked and played. No recent publication better illustrates how much of worth there is in such a collection than a descriptive catalogue of objects in the Museum of the Historical Society of Bucks County, Pa., prepared by Mr. Henry C. Mercer. It bears the felicitous title 'Tools of the Nation Maker,' and is handsomely printed and covered. The notes, folk-songs, etc., which the author adds render it much more than a catalogue, and the index is a model of completeness. Copies can be obtained through Mr. Mercer (Doylestown, Pa.).

#### RACIAL GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE.

ON previous occasions attention has been called in these notes to the excellent series of articles on the racial geography of Europe contributed by Professor W. Z. Ripley to the *Popular Science Monthly*. The eleventh instalment, that in the December number, dealt with the British Isles, and is of special interest to English-speaking peoples. In preparing it Professor Ripley was actively aided by members of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain, and officially by that institution itself. His article, therefore, represents the most recent and thorough scientific study of the population of the British Isles.

D. G. BRINTON.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

##### THE UNITED STATES FISH COMMISSION.

As directed by the American Society of Naturalists, Professor Henry F. Osborn presented to President McKinley, on January 7th, the resolution passed by the Society at the Ithaca meeting, and published in the last issue of this JOURNAL. As it is desirable to give this resolution the widest possible circulation, it may be repeated:

"Resolved, That the American Society of Naturalists, as representatives of the principal scientific and

educational interests of this country, unanimously express to the President and Congress of the United States their sentiment that the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries should, according to the law of 1888, governing his appointment, be 'a person of proved scientific and practical acquaintance with the fish and fisheries of the coast.'

"Resolved, That it is of the utmost importance that the Fish Commission, as one of the most useful scientific institutions of the government, should be free from political influence and should be administered with the highest degree of scientific efficiency by an experienced officer."

The President received the resolution very courteously and replied that he recognized it as representing the sentiment of all the institutions of the country, and that the United States Fish Commission should coöperate with the colleges as originally planned by Spencer F. Baird. His decision in the matter of appointment will not be made public at present.

##### THE WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

ON September 15, 1897, the Council of the Geological Society of Washington invited the other societies represented in the Joint Commission of the Scientific Societies of Washington to appoint 'a committee of conference, to meet similar committees from other societies,' for the consideration of certain questions relating to the joint organization of the scientific societies. In response to this invitation, the following committees were appointed: From the Anthropological Society, Frank Baker, W J McGee, Lester F. Ward; from the Biological Society, L. O. Howard, C. Hart Merriam, George M. Sternberg; from the Chemical Society, C. E. Munroe, W. H. Seaman, Wirt Tassin; from the Entomological Society, W. H. Ashmead, Theodore Gill, C. L. Marlatt; from the National Geographic Society, Henry Gannett, G. K. Gilbert, Gardiner G. Hubbard; from the Geological Society, Whitman Cross, S. F. Emmons, Arnold Hague; and from the Philosophical Society, Marcus Baker, J. R. Eastman, Bernard R. Green. This Committee of Conference met on December 6 and organized by the election of J. R. Eastman as Chairman and Whitman Cross as Secretary; other meetings were held on December 9 and 11. After full discussion, the following resolutions, among others, were

adopted and recommended to the governing boards of the several scientific societies :

"*Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Committee, the autonomy of the several scientific societies should be maintained.

"*Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Committee the Joint Commission should be modified in the following particulars :

1st, That its name be changed to the Washington Academy of Sciences ; 2d, That it assume independent scientific functions ; 3d, That it have power to add to its members.

"*Resolved*, That the Committee therefore recommends to the several societies that they instruct the Joint Commission to take such action as may be necessary to carry the above recommendations into effect."

The conferees subsequently reported their action to the governing boards of the several societies, and all of these have adopted the resolutions substantially as voted by the Committee of Conference. The matter comes up for action at a special meeting of the Joint Commission on January 11th.

#### THE SWEDISH ARCTIC EXPEDITION OF 1898.

THE preparations for this expedition are described in a recent issue of the *London Times*. It will be under the leadership of Dr. A. G. Nathorst, who accompanied Nordenskjöld in his Greenland expedition of 1883. Its main object is to examine the eastern side of Spitzbergen, Wiche's Land and New Island—in short, the region between Spitzbergen and Franz Josef Land. But, as this area will probably not be accessible in the beginning of next summer, Dr. Nathorst intends to carry on investigations in western Spitzbergen, Northeast Land, Bear Island, etc. He has bought the 'Antaretic,' which in 1895 carried the whaling expedition to the South Polar Sea; it is now being overhauled and equipped for the expedition. The captain will be Emil Nilsson, who has been several times to the Yenisei and who commanded the 'Sofia' during Nordenskjöld's Greenland expedition in 1883. Dr. Nathorst himself will have special charge of the geological work. The zoologist will be Mr. G. Kolthoff, of Upsala, curator of the fine biological museum at Stockholm. He also was in the 1883 expedition, and has made ornithological expeditions

to Iceland and the Farös. Dr. Axel Ohlen, of Lund, will also look after the zoology. He has dredged off the east coast of Greenland, has visited Baffin's Bay and Melville Bay, and was in the recent Swedish expedition to Tierra del Fuego. Dr. Gruner Andersen will be the botanist. He has studied the Arctic flora on the mountains of Sweden and Norway. The hydrographer will probably be Dr. Axel Humberg, also a well-known geologist; he also was in the 1883 expedition. The hydrographical work will form a very important part of the researches of the expedition. The cartographical work will be under the charge of Lieutenant Otto Kjellström; in this department photographic methods will be utilized as an aid to the ordinary methods. Special attention will be given to glaciers wherever found, and the surgeon, Dr. E. T. Levin, will investigate the occurrence of bacteria in the Arctic regions.

#### GENERAL.

THERE were in attendance at the Ithaca meeting of the American Society of Naturalists and Affiliated Societies 166 members coming from 47 institutions.

AMONG those who have accepted nominations as Vice-Presidents of the General Committee of the Fourth International Congress of Zoology are the following: Professor R. J. Anderson, of Belfast; Professor Bridge, of Birmingham; Professor D. J. Cunningham, of Dublin; Professor Herdman, F.R.S., of Liverpool; Professor M'Intosh, F.R.S., of St. Andrews; Mr. J. Cosmo Melvill, of Manchester; Professor Lloyd Morgan, of Bristol; Professor Alleyne Nicholson, F.R.S., of Aberdeen; Dr. Scharff, of Dublin; Dr. Traquair, F.R.S., of Edinburgh; Canon Tristram, F.R.S., of Durham; Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay, and Professor Percival Wright, of Dublin.

As we learn from *Nature*, the Council of the London Chemical Society have recommended the following as foreign members to be balloted for at the next meeting, January 20th: Professor Remsen, Baltimore; Professor Troost, Paris; Professor Moissan, Paris; Professor Raoult, Grenoble; Professor Oswald, Leipzig; Professor Curtius, Bonn; Professor Mensutkin, St. Petersburg; Professor Markownikow, St.

Petersburg; Professor Arrhenius, Stockholm; Professor Waage, Christiania; Professor Franchimont, Leyden; Professor van der Waals, Amsterdam; Professor Spring, Liège; Professor Körner, Milan.

SIR W. H. FLOWER has been elected associate of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Belgium.

QUEEN VICTORIA has conferred among the usual New Year honors the following: knighthood on Professor George Brown, Consulting Veterinary Advisor to the Board of Agriculture; Ernest Clarke, Esq., Secretary to the Royal Agricultural Society; John Struthers, M.D., LL.D., late President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and John Batty Tuke, Esq., M.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; The K.C.B. on Professor Gairdner, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Glasgow University, and the C.B. on Professor D'Arcy Thompson.

A BRONZE bust of the late General Francis A. Walker, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was presented formally by the undergraduate students to the Institute of Technology, on January 5th, the anniversary of General Walker's death.

DR. A. D. WALLER has resigned from the Fulleren professorship of physiology and comparative anatomy of the Royal Institution owing to the lack of any facilities for physiological research.

MR. W. P. PYCRAFT has left Oxford, according to *Natural Science*, and has been appointed temporary assistant in ornithology in the British Museum (Natural History). He will devote his attention specially to the arrangement of the collection of skeletons of birds.

GOVERNOR BLACK has appointed the following as delegates to represent the State of New York at the Fisheries Congress to be held at Tampa, Fla., on January 19th: Tarleton H. Bean and Warren N. Goddard, of New York City; Charles L. MacArthur, of Troy; Charles L. Babcock, of Rochester; Edward Thompson, of Northport, and A. Nelson Cheney, of Glens Falls.

NEWS has just been received of the death of Professor Thomas Jeffery Parker, F.R.S., on

November 7th, at Dunedin, New Zealand. Professor Parker was from 1872 to 1880 demonstrator in biology at the Royal College of Science. He then went to New Zealand as professor of biology in the University of Otago, where he did much to promote the advancement of natural science in the colony both by his lectures and addresses and by founding the Otago University Museum, of which he was curator at the time of his death. In 1884 he published 'A Course of Instruction in Zootomy (Vertebrata),' and a 'Text-book of Zoology,' written jointly with Professor W. A. Haswell, was completed before his death and will be published by the Macmillans.

DR. ERNEST HART, since 1866 editor of the *British Medical Journal*, died in London on January 7th. He had made the *Journal*, perhaps, the leading medical journal of the world, only rivalled by the *Lancet*, and had at the same time built up the British Medical Association to be probably the strongest professional organization in the world. Dr. Hart was the author of many publications and was prominent in numerous and important sanitary and social reforms.

WE regret also to record the death of Professor Francesco Brioschi, the mathematician, President of the Accademia dei Lincei, at Milan, on December 13th, aged seventy-two years; and of Professor James Holm, professor of physics at the South African College, Cape-town, and before 1895 demonstrator in physics at University College, Nottingham, aged twenty-eight years.

THE *Science Teacher* is the name of a monthly publication just established by Mr. A. T. Seymour, instructor in science and mathematics, Westminster School, Dobbs Ferry, N. Y. There is room for a scientific journal that will be of interest to teachers in the secondary schools, and we hope that this journal will fill the place, but in order to do this it will be necessary to improve upon the first number.

THE *Philadelphia Medical Journal*, established under the auspices of the leading physicians and medical men of Philadelphia and edited by Dr. George M. Gould, has begun publication with the New Year. The first number contains

contributions from Dr. J. M. Da Costa, Professor N. Senn, Professor William Osler, Professor W. W. Keen and other distinguished contributors. Much space is devoted to editorials, notes and a review of the contents of other medical journals in the English language. Under its present editorship the *Journal* is sure to be interesting and aggressive, as witness the following from the editorial columns: "Because a city [*i. e.*, New York] has a great harbor it is boobyishness to boast and be proud. \* \* \* \* \* It will require a good many years before the supremacy of Philadelphia as the medical center of America will be seriously disputed. But we are less interested in the braggart's vaunt of any supremacy, etc."

At a meeting of the Zoological Society of London on November 14th Mr. J. Graham Kerr gave an account of his recent expedition, along with Mr. Budgett, to the Chaco of Paraguay in quest of *Lepidosiren*, and made remarks on its habits as there observed. Mr. Kerr also gave a general account of the early stages of its development, drawing special attention to the presence in the larva of external gills and a sucker similar to those of the Amphibia. Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., read a paper entitled 'On the Mammals obtained by Mr. A. Whyte in North Nyasaland, and presented to the British Museum by Sir H. H. Johnston, K.C.B.; being a fifth contribution to the Mammalogy of Nyasaland.' This memoir contained notes on 61 species of mammals, 4 of which were characterized as new, viz, *Macroscelides brachyrhynchus malosæ*, *Crocidura lixa*, *Myosorex soulla* and *Grahiurus johnstoni*.

In the *Journal* of the Boston Society of Medical Sciences, for December, 1897, Dr. C. F. Hodge gives 'some results of the action of alcohol on dogs as regards non-viability and malformation of the young, and severity of attack in an epidemic of distemper.' These observations, which are a continuation of the experiments described in *The Popular Science Monthly* for April, 1897, show that of the progeny of the alcoholic pair, twenty pups, born in three litters, eight were malformed and six born dead. The normal pair produced sixteen whelps in three litters, and not one of these was born dead,

and only one was malformed. During an epidemic of distemper one of the alcoholized dogs died, and all save one were seriously affected; none of the other dogs exhibited any serious symptoms of disease.

THE monkeys in the vicinity of Hardwar, India, are said to be seriously affected with the bubonic plague, which they are supposed to have contracted through visits to infected rooms in the town of Hardwar. The proposed extermination of the monkeys with a view of putting an end to the disease so far as they are concerned might clash seriously with the religious views of the Hindoos.

MAYOR QUINCY, of Boston, in his inaugural message urgently recommends the establishment of a marine aquarium in Boston. He notes that for ten years or more the Boston Society of Natural History has been engaged in considering and endeavoring to carry through plans for natural history gardens, to be established within the parks under three different divisions—one, the marine aquarium, to be located at Marine Park; another, the fresh water aquarium, to be located at Jamaica Pond, and the third, the Zoological Garden, to be located in the Long Crouch Woods, Franklin Park. The total expense of carrying out the complete plans is estimated at \$200,000, and Mayor Quincy strongly recommends them. He urges that \$65,000 be appropriated at once for the marine aquarium.

GOVERNOR BLACK, of New York, in his recent message pays special attention to the forestry interests of the State. He proposes that the State should purchase a tract of forest land and cultivate it scientifically as a means of diffusing knowledge and showing the revenue-producing character of such an investment sagaciously administered. It should be kept clear of politics by giving the Regents of the University or the Trustees of Cornell University charge of it, and an annual report of progress and results should be made to the Legislature.

SENATOR PLATT, of New York, has introduced into the United States Senate a bill to establish a national park on the Palisades of the Hudson River.

A BILL which will limit the lawful use of hypnotism to licensed physicians will, it is said, be introduced into the New York Legislature during the present term. A number of instances have been collected to prove that the use of hypnotism by irresponsible persons is dangerous and opposed to the public good. The bill, before introduction, will be submitted to eminent lawyers for revision, and when finished will be supported, it is said, by the medical societies of the State.

BILLS have been introduced into the United States Senate and House of Representatives making appropriations for the continuation of timber tests by the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture. Senator McBride's bill appropriates \$40,000, and Representative Hurley's \$100,000.

AN appropriation of \$200,000 is asked this year by the Gypsy Moth Committee, which has just made its annual report to the Board of Agriculture. The work of the past few years has convinced the Committee that extermination of the moth is not only possible, but certain, if sufficient sums be promptly appropriated for the purpose.

THE plaster casts used by Professor Osborn in his lecture on museums before the recent meeting of the American Society of Naturalists have been presented by him to Cornell University.

THE leading editorial in the January number of *Natural Science* endorses the article in the *Contemporary Review* on the fur-seals from which we recently quoted. The editorial concludes: "It may be retorted that if the Canadians are to be debarred from killing fur-seals at sea the Americans ought to be prevented from killing them on shore. But the conditions are totally different. On shore only non-breeding males with perfect skins are killed. No females or breeding males are taken. But at sea no such selection is possible; the sex cannot be determined until the seal is killed. Many of the seals escape with fatal wounds, and as the females are less active than the males, and are often hampered by the presence of their young, they are more easily captured. Hence the majority of the seals killed at sea are females.

The economic value of the pelagic seal industry is now insignificant, and as it appears to be admitted by both sides that the herds of fur-seals are being greatly reduced in numbers by the excessive killing at sea of female seals, and the consequent starvation of nearly 20 per cent. of the young, it is to be hoped that effective measures may be taken to prevent this inhuman and wasteful slaughter."

THE new volume of 'Minerva' published by Trübner, Strassburg, has as a frontispiece an etching of Nansen.

*Le Journal de Colmar*, of December 12th, announces the translation of Hirn's 'Analyse élémentaire de l'Univers' into the Russian by General Starinkévitch. The translator informs the former secretary or personal friend of Hirn, M. E. Schwoerer, that the work is just issued and that he has prefaced to the text a biographical sketch of 'Hirn: sa vie et ses travaux.' General Socrate Starinkévitch is the Governor of Varsovie and one of the best known scientific men in Russia among the nobles of that rapidly developing country.

THE works of the United States Liquefied Acetylene Distributing Company, located at Jersey City, were completely destroyed by a series of explosions on December 24th. Two men were killed and others were injured. It is evident that the manufacture and use of acetylene should receive a thorough scientific investigation before it can take the place that its merits warrant.

THE royal British Antiquarian and Archæological Societies have lodged a petition with Lord Salisbury protesting against the peculiar form of prison labor in Egypt since the Khedive's penitentiaries and jails have been under English management, says the *Scientific American*. It seems that the convicts, of whom there are twelve hundred in the Jourah prison alone, are employed in manufacturing bogus antiques, for which there is reported to be a large market, especially in America. The petitioners declare that the forgeries are so clever as to be scarcely distinguishable from the real article. As yet only antiques of relatively small dimensions have been produced, but the prison authorities express the hope of being able in course of time

to turn out full-fledged mummies and sarcophagi. The scientific societies in England point out, with some degree of justice, that while this form of prison labor may have commercial advantages it practically renders the British government a party to fraud.

PER DUSÉN, the Swedish engineer and bryologist, has returned from Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia, where he has been engaged in scientific research since September, 1895.

At a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, London, on November 21st, Mr. W. Saville-Kent, late Commissioner of Fisheries to the Government of Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia, made an address on the natural history of Australia. Lord Loch, who presided, referred, at the close of the lecture, to the question of Antarctic exploration. He said there was a movement on foot at the present moment, which was receiving very strong support, for fitting out an expedition, and he trusted that the Council of the Institute would give that movement, when it came in a very short time prominently before the public, every support. This matter of exploring the Antarctic regions had long occupied the attention of the several colonies in Australia. During the time he was Governor of Victoria there was a strong feeling in favor of assisting any such movement. If the Imperial Government would have assisted in fitting out an Antarctic expedition these colonies, and he believed others, would have willingly joined. Whether circumstances that had since occurred in Australia would enable them now to join in any movement that might be brought forward by the Imperial Government he did not know, but he believed there would be a strong expression of opinion in Australia in favor of the southern colonies joining in any organized expedition, whether assisted by the government at home or promoted by private enterprise entirely, to carry out Antarctic exploration.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

PRESIDENT HARPER announced at the recent Quarterly Convocation of the University of Chicago that Mr. Rockefeller had given \$200,-

000 to maintain the University in its present condition during the year beginning July 1st. It is announced that the Rush Medical School of Chicago, with 77 instructors and 699 students, will probably affiliate with the University of Chicago.

THE east wing of Ottawa University (Catholic) was destroyed by fire on January 5th. The loss on the building is \$50,000; on contents \$30,000. The loss is covered by insurance.

THE Educational Council of the Nebraska State Teachers' Association has adopted the report of a committee of which Professor Bessey is chairman, recommending that only those institutions be recognized as colleges that require as a minimum for admission the equivalent of a good high-school course of at least three years above the eighth grade of the public schools, and that give a full four-year course of collegiate work of creditable grade for graduation.

A CHEQUE for £1,000 from Mr. Alexander Peckover, Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Cambridgeshire, has been received by the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University for the fund for rebuilding the School of Medicine and Surgery attached to the University.

THE establishment of a new technological institute in the north of Prussia is being discussed in the German papers, and is favored by several political leaders, including Dr. von Gossler, lately Minister for Education and the Fine Arts. Danzig, Thorn and Posen are mentioned as suitable places. Hamburg is also agitating the question, though that city seems to want a university.

MR. FRANCIS RAMALEY, instructor of pharmaceutical botany in the University of Minnesota, has been appointed assistant professor of botany in the University of Colorado, Boulder, Col.

PROFESSOR KELLY has resigned from the chair of hygiene in King's College, London.

DR. ABELOUS has been appointed professor of physiology at the University of Toulouse, and Dr. F. Stanley Kipping, F.R.S., professor of chemistry at University College, Nottingham, England. Dr. Hollerman has qualified as docent in botany in the University of Berlin.